tive Master Plans for the purpose. The State Governments have also taken steps to draw Metropolitan Regional Plans for healtthy development of metropolitan cities.

Financial assistance is being provided to various State Governments under the schemes of Urban Basic Services; Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums and World Bank assisted Urban Development Projects. In addition the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns is also in operation which will help check the influx of population into these major urban centres by making increased investment on infrastructure and other essential facilities in small and medium towns.

Steps to Meet Shortage of Pig Iron

340. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of pig iron in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) During the current year against an estimated demand of 16.75 lakh tonnes indigenous availability of pig iron has been estimated at 13.5 lakh tonnes.

(c) The level of supplies is being improved by increasing production in the coming months and by the import of about 2 lakh tonnes of pig iron.

Setting up of New Food Processing Industrial Units

341. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to encourage setting up of new food processing industrial units;

(b) whether Government are considering single window clearance for the purpose; and

(c) the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government are keen to accord clearance for establishing food processing units under a single window concept and the State Governments are being suitably advised in this regard.

Statement

The facilities announced to the food processing industries are as follows:

(i) Food Processing Industries including packaging and preservation will be placed in Appendix-I.

(ii) Broad banding of industries will be permitted.

(iii) Food Processing Industries will be treated as high priority sector for the purposes of bank finance.

(iv) The processing industry will be able to get raw material by forming cooperatives in rural areas for collection of raw materials. They necessarily will have to provide extension service, seels, fertilizers etc., so that they are assured of proper supply of raw materials They may also obtain some land for demonstration purposes subject however, to the existing Land Ceiling Laws in the country.